What is claimed is:

1.   Removing from a retinal image acquired by a fundus camera, image degradations arising from intraocular defects, comprising the steps of:

5   a.)   digitizing said acquired image;

         b.)   taking an FFT of said digitized image by rows and columns;

         c.)   correlating said FFTs to obtain resultant row product vectors and column vectors;

         d.)   finding the root equal to the respective numbers of rows and columns

10   of the resultant row and column product vectors to obtain quotients;

         e.)   subtracting from each of said quotients a minimum offset term to obtain the PSF spatial spectrum (MTF) of the eye;

         f.)   dividing each row FFT and each column FFT by said MTF; and

         g.)   taking the inverse FFT to yield a restored distortion-reduced image.

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2.   The method of removing from an acquired image degradations arising from optical defects in inaccessible portions of the optical path, comprising the steps of

         a.)   digitizing said acquired image;

         b.)   scanning said acquired image along predetermined paths to obtain

20   vectors of data;

         c.)   taking a discrete transform of said vectors of data;

         d.)   correlating said discrete transform of said vectors to obtain resultant product vectors;

         e.)   finding roots of the resultant product vectors for each of said

25   predetermined paths ;

         f.)   subtracting from each of said roots a minimum offset term to obtain a point spread function spatial spectrum (MTF);

         g.)   dividing each discrete transform of said vectors by said MTF; and

         h.)   taking the inverse discrete transform to yield a restored distortion-

30   reduced image.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein said acquired image is a retinal image acquired by a fundus camera.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein at least one of said predetermined paths traverses a predetermined feature of said retinal image.

5.   The method of claim 3 wherein said discrete transform is a fast Fourier transform.

6.   The method of claim 4 wherein said predetermined paths are row and column paths of said image.

7.   The method of claim 5 wherein there are N of said predetermined paths and said root is the Nth root of said product vectors.

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